The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1612 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C. TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 9

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Do you believe what you read in the newspapers about labor? Here are a few samples, culled in a single week.

The United Press put out a story, which was widely published, to the effect that the War Labor Board had decided in advance on a formula for settlement of the union shop issue in the steel cases pending before it.

Chairman Davis promptly scotched this by declaring it is wholly "without foundation," he said. Did the newspapers carry this denial prominently? They did not.

Mr. Davis also had something to say about exaggerated press reports about strikes. "The fact is," he declared, "that since early last November the interruption of war production by strikes has been reduced almost to the vanishing point."

Did the newspapers feature this statement? They did not.

Instead, the daily press played up baseless and inflated strike figures put out as anti-labor propaganda by the National Association of Manufacturers. Secretary of Labor Perkins protested. "The Department of Labor has been publishing accurate figures on strikes for the past eight years," she said. "No newspaper ever mentions these, however. But when the National Association of Manufacturers releases a lot of inflated figures, the newspapers fall all over themselves to give them a big play."

Here's another story. Again the United Press was the culprit. It put out a yarn charging that a National Labor Relations Board investigation of company unionism at Curtiss-Wright was delaying the vital flow of plane production. It was even suggested that the board's action was holding up parts needed for American planes grounded in the Far East. Anonymous Army and Navy officials were the "authority" for this statement. The story was widely published.

It was immediately and indignantly denounced by the National Labor Relations Board, which charged the story was part of a conspiracy to terrorize the board into abandoning efforts to protect workers.

"Such attempts to force the board to change its functions have been made before" said the official statement. "The public should know that in each instance it has been the board's experience that prompt hearings have allayed tension and unrest, which otherwise would have immediate and disastrous consequences. An opportunity to present issues at hearings before labor boards is the method provided by the Government for avoiding strikes and lockouts."

This was an important and significant statement. Did you see it in the newspapers? We didn't, and we made quite a search for it.

Let's take another case. This started with the publication of a Page 1 box in the New York Times to the effect that labor leaders were to be exempted from the draft at the request of the AFL and the CIO. Radio broadcast columnists and editorial writers picked it up with due expressions of horror.

President Green, in behalf of the AFL, forcefully denied that the Federation had ever asked or would ever ask for special treatment of labor representatives. A few newspapers carried a small item on this denial but they buried it far inside their pages.

There were more developments to this story. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the Draft Director, discussed it at his press conference. He made it clear that the story has been deliberately twisted and distorted in many ways. He denied that the AFL or CIO had asked for special exemptions. He pointed out that the order issued by Selective Service Headquarters did not in fact grant special treatment for labor leaders. They could only recommend that local boards may give consideration to deferring GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, as well as labor representatives, whose services are considered essential to efficient operation of war production plants.

Did the newspaper give Gen. Hershey's statement equivalent space or position to the original and false story? They did not. In fact, very few of them mentioned his denial at all.

Finally, we should like to call to your attention a story published on Page 1 of the Washington Post which gave the impression that the musicians' union in the District of Columbia had put its foot down against sending band instrumentalists giving their services free for the entertainment of soldiers in Army camps.

Careful reading of this story disclosed the submerged fact that the union had merely insisted that orchestra leaders obtain permission from the union before giving such concerts.

The story percolated to New York and came to the attention of the President of the international union. He promptly denied that any ban was intended. He pointed out that the American Federation of Musicians had waived its rules to permit and encourage free concerts at Army camps by name bands. He did not mention, but will be glad to do so now, that the union have given a tremendous amount of their spare time free of charge to help cheer up our armed forces and provide entertainment for them. Did the Washington Post correct its original story and print the facts? It did not.

Do you still believe what you read in the newspapers about labor?

"Outlaw Conspiracies By Employers," La Follette Report Asks Congress

Violence and Propaganda To Kill Unions and Destroy Standards Exposed

Washington, D. C.—The La Follette Committee urged Congress to outlaw vicious "conspiracies" by employer associations to kill labor unions and nullify labor laws.

This sweeping recommendation featured the introductory section of a nine-volume report on the investigation of employer-financed violence and propaganda in California conducted by the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

The report emphasized that the findings of the California inquiry bear an important relationship to current, nation-wide attempts to destroy labor standards in the name of the national emergency. The committee said:

"In an atmosphere of national defense the causes of or responsibility for strikes or demands for readjustments in employment relationships may be submerged or passed over. Only an awareness by the public and the legislature of the worth of free unions and collective bargaining in promoting industrial democracy and industrial peace, plus a sophisticated understanding of the ways in which certain anti-labor employers and their belligerent employer groups have sought, and continue to seek, to use the forces of public opinion and the law to avoid industrial democracy will protect labor's rights and achieve domestic tranquillity in the present emergency. This analysis of events in California in the last decade should contribute to that awareness and understanding.

"The various parts of this report will reveal that it is a habit and function of a particular type of employers' organization to stimulate by propaganda and other devices the public and legislative sentiment that will pave the way for legislation restrictive of labor's rights.

"Indeed, such activities are financed, organized, and conducted by the very same associations which carry on private conspiratorial assaults on the right of organization and collective bargaining through labor espionage, company unions, strikebreaking systems, use of industrial munitions, the perversion of local law enforcement, and various other forms of coercion.

"These organizations with great financial resources, skilled propagandists, and a ready retree to a large section of the nation's organs of publicity, are well designed to foster, develop, and divert national hysteria in any period of national emergency against labor unions and collective bargaining, although they themselves constitute a constant provocation to strife in industries essential to defense.

"Any proposals for legislation encumbering the exercise of labor's rights should be viewed and appraised in the light of the evidence to be analyzed in these reports, concerning those employer groups which often inspire and stand to gain an undue advantage from such legislation.

"The next decade may determine the whole course of development of democratic institutions for generations to come. The climax of world-wide affliction to the mass industrial machine age is here. The equitable distribution of the products of collective enterprise that means life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, in the economic sphere must be achieved without a destruction of the liberties and enterprise of private citizens and associations. The alternative to that course are either internal decay or the tyranny of small groups vested with great power.

"That is the vast and fearsome prospect in the light of which all policies, governmental, affirmative and negative, domestic or foreign, must be viewed in the years that are ahead. Our objectives for democratic government must continue to further a balanced system of collective bargaining between employers and employes, between those who own or control productive property and those who work it. Only by a different adherence to that public policy will it be possible to achieve an ever increasing degree of order, efficiency, and economic justice free from the tyranny of the totalitarian state."

In discussing conditions in California, the report said:

"The committee found that in important sectors of California's industry the national labor policy had not been honored or observed. The results were observable in continued instability, repeated denials of labor's rights, a constant strain on the maintenance of collective bargaining procedures where such exist, and widespread lay in organized conspiracies of employers' associations to flout the law.

News Briefs

MEANY LISTED TO DISCUSS LABOR'S PART IN THE WAR

Detroit, Mich.—Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor will deliver an address on labor's part in the war effort at the annual dinner of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor March 12. Mr. Meany's speech will probably be broadcast nationally.

P. V. McNamara, chairman of the arrangements committee, announced that the largest attendance since the annual dinners began is assured. The appearance of Mr. Meany will be his first before the Detroit labor movement since he became secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L.

WAR LABOR BOARD PLANS HEARINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Washington, D. C.—Revision of its procedure to provide for public hearings before the full board was announced this week by the National War Labor Board. The open hearings will prevail only in cases going to all 12 board members. Proceedings before the panels of the board will remain secret as before.

In announcing the change, NWLB chairman William H. Davis declared that "the practice by public boards of holding open hearings is one of the hallmarks of democracy. Because of the national emergency, between labor and management that there shall be no strikes or lockouts for the duration of the war and that all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means, the decisions of the board have a quasi-judicial character.

"The American people," Davis said, "are entitled to as much information as possible concerning the facts considered by the board in reaching its decisions."

LEADERS OF SHOE UNION NAMED TO ADVISE W.P.B.

Washington, D. C.—Sidney Hillman, War Production Board labor director, announced appointment of nine representatives of shoe unions as a labor advisory committee. The committee is to make recommendations to the W. P. B. concerning the war production effort of industries represented.

Questions which it will consider include those relating to supplies of leather and other raw materials required for manufacture of shoes, distribution of war work and conversion of plant facilities to arms manufacture.

The union representatives named include John J. Mara, Boston; Frank L. Anderson, Chicago; Michael F. Lynch, Haverhill, Mass., and Michael Tenore, Philadelphia, all of the American Federation of Labor Boot and Shoe Workers.

TEAMSTERS ASK CONGRESS TO PROBE RUBBER STOCKS

Chicago, Ill.—A national conference here of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers, AFL, affiliate, considered the urgent problem of how to win the war and at the same time prevent mass unemployment among teamsters.

Stressing the disagreement among government officials regarding the rubber situation, the conference asked for an immediate congressional investigation to determine stocks of crude rubber now available in the United States.

SUPREME COURT DECIDES RED CAP'S TIPS ARE PAY

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court ruled in a 5 to 2 decision, that tips to "Red Cap" porters are pay so far as the porters and the wages-hours law are concerned.

From an inspection of the pattern of organized labor's "anti" defiance manifested in the California inquiry, the outlines of remedial measures become readily apparent.

"Such employers' association conspiracies should be flatly outlawed.

"The California study also reveals the existence of a wide and important field in which for practical purposes civil liberties today are not freely expressed, and in which public intervention is needed for the protection of employment relations in California's industrialized agriculture have been left in the unfettered control of employers' groups and associations.

"The results, to be detailed in this report, are almost beyond belief. Unemployment, underemployment, disorganized and haphazard migrancy, lack of adequate wages or annual income, bad housing, insufficient education, little medical care, the great public burden of relief, the denial of civil liberties, riots, strife, corruption, are all part and parcel of this autocratic system of labor relations that has for decades dominated California's agricultural industry.

"In this respect California provides a clear example that what is left in industrial society the stronger side of the employment relation cannot well be permitted to devise policies and conduct its affairs solely in accord with its own wishes. Such so-called laissez faire constitutes too great a danger to the public welfare, too great a drain on the public purse, and too great an injury to the entire fabric of democratic rights."

House Crushes Smith Amendment, 226 to 62; Democrats And Republicans Unite To Defeat Attempt To Wipe Out All Labor Standards

EDITORIAL

The House of Representatives performed a healthy operation for labor and the nation by amputating the gangrenous Smith Amendment from the War Powers Bill.

From now on the labor haters on Capitol Hill will be on the spot. Every measure they introduce will be immediately suspected. Their poisonous propaganda has been exposed and they will have a tougher time trying to put over any more fast ones.

But will that stop the legislative assaults upon labor? We doubt it. Too many powerful interests see in the nation's war emergency a golden opportunity to crush organized labor and deprive it of its hard-won rights. They will not give up the fight too easily.

So we find it necessary to make these warning predictions to those who are looking forward to "Der Tag" when American labor is humbled:

On the very same day that the wages of American workers are frozen by law, the profits of industry and capital will be abolished by law.

On the very same day that workers are deprived by law of the right to strike, the right to own and manage private property will be denied; free speech will be ended in America and the free press will be a thing of the past.

Surely no American wants that to happen! Surely America does not have to kill democracy in order to win a war for democracy!

It does not need to happen if we can achieve true national unity, if each group will respect the rights of others, if those who try to take advantage of the war to seek selfish gains at the expense of labor will only realize they are cooking their own goose by such methods.

Let's put a stop to sniping! Let us remember that Americans cannot win this war by fighting each other! Let us concentrate our energies on fighting the real and common enemies of all Americans! That is the only way to win this war!

Labor Haters Given Severe Licking After Their False Arguments Are Exposed by President Green

Washington, D. C.—By the overwhelming vote of 226 to 62, the House of Representatives crushed the noxious Smith Amendment to the War Powers Bill which aimed to kill every labor protective law adopted by Congress in the last half-century.

The vicious coterie of labor haters in the House, who advanced this proposal to wipe out labor's wage and hour standards on the false plea of interference with war production, thus were given a stinging licking.

Democrats and Republicans joined regardless of party lines in dealing out a well-deserved rebuke to Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia, sponsor of the amendment and the instigator of many other anti-labor measures.

During the debate that preceded the vote, the false arguments presented in behalf of the Smith Amendment were thoroughly punctured and exposed. It was pointed out:

1—That existing wage and hour laws do not limit the hours of work and therefore are not interfering with expansion of war production.

2—That most workers in war industries are now putting in 48, 50 and even 60 hours a week, being paid overtime for hours in excess of 40.

3—That all the Smith Amendment would accomplish would be to relieve employers of the legal requirement of paying such overtime.

4—That the result would then mean a pay cut for workers and a corresponding increase in the swollen profits of corporations and employers, whether engaged in defense production or not.

5—That since union contracts protected overtime rates of organized workers, regardless of legal provisions, those who would be hit hardest and most directly by the Smith Amendment were the oppressed and unorganized workers of the South.

In identical telegrams to Democratic Majority Leader McCormack and Republican Minority Leader Martin, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor warned that the measure would also cause industrial strife, disrupt production schedules and undermine the morale of loyal American workers. The telegram said in part:

"The American Federation of Labor is uncompromisingly opposed to the Smith Amendment. We consider it a threat to America's war effort. This hastily conceived proposal would abolish by a single legislative coup the whole structure of labor safeguards which has been constructed in America over half a century, and which has helped our country achieve its present industrial and economic power.

"We hold the Smith Amendment is false in its basic premise and misleading in its objective.

"This proposal would wreck American labor standards, disrupt war production schedules and undermine the morale of loyal American workers. I earnestly urge Congress to defeat it."

Both McCormack and Martin responded to Mr. Green's appeal by working tirelessly and effectively to defeat the measure. The vote of the Republican contingent in the House was especially significant. Only a tiny handful stood up to be counted for the measure while the rest lined up in an almost solid phalanx against it.

Of the numerous and eloquent addresses delivered against the Smith Amendment on the floor of the House, perhaps the most powerful was that of Rep. Joseph E. Casey (D.) of Massachusetts. He emphasized that the Smith Amendment would increase industrial strife instead of preventing it, and added:

"The front line of this war is in the shops. It is in the factories. It is in the mills. We can lose it or we can win it there. This war will require billions of dollars' worth of raw materials, it will require billions of dollars in money. But it will also require the work of millions of hands and the work of millions of brains.

"We want to be unified. We do not want to be disturbed by sniping at any one particular group. This is an attempt to undermine wage standards that have been established for thirty years and that have been won through hard work, through agitation, through public sentiment favoring them. It will be undermining through the back door, under the guise of 'we are in a crisis,' the very people whose loyalty we depend on now.

"We can lose this war if we slow up our factories or waste our ammunition by sniping at one another. If labor is forced to consume its time and energy trying to protect its very existence, it will not be free to devote all of its talents to the No. 1 job of production. Let us stop sniping. Let us all work together."

Members of the AFL Legislative Committee, led by Chairman William C. Hushing, gave yeoman services in convincing doubtful members of Congress to vote against the Smith Amendment and insured an important victory for labor by their efforts.

Labor Gives FDR Joint Program On Wages And War Manpower

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor presented to President Roosevelt at a White House conference a joint AFL-CIO statement on wage policy and a program for manpower mobilization to increase war production.

Agreement by both labor groups on this policy and program was considered highly significant but even more important will be the concrete results of this joint action. It is expected that:

1—Administration spokesmen who have been talking through their hats in opposition to necessary and deserved wage increases will do less talking or change their tune.

2—Wrangling and political maneuvering over which agency is to have authority over manpower mobilization will be stopped by placing the job where it belongs—under the Labor Department.

Labor's recommendations were submitted to the President by his "War Labor Cabinet" in accordance with his own procedure of drawing up concepts of AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Vice President Daniel J. Tobin and three CIO representatives.

Before going to see the President, the AFL and CIO representatives had several joint meetings at which their recommendations were drafted and revised.

On emerging from the White House conference, President Green said:

"We held another very satisfactory meeting with the President."

Details of the labor recommendations were not made public.

Harder Work, More Teamwork, Urged By Nelson For Victory

Washington, D. C.—War Production Director Donald M. Nelson appealed to management and labor in a nation-wide radio address to devote more brains, more muscle and more teamwork to the task of turning out war materials so that the United Nations can lick the Axis in the shortest possible time.

He revealed production "score boards" will be put up in each plant to stimulate healthy competition for production records.

He called for joint labor-management committees in each factory to which any man may submit ideas and suggestions for doing the job better.

He also proposed that "production soldiers" be recognized for meritorious service by being given "awards of merit." This plan is already being considered by the Army.

Another plan endorsed by Nelson is to give workers reports on distinguished field performance of the ships, guns, planes and tanks they produce. Fulton Lewis, Jr., radio broadcaster, has advocated the latter two proposals repeatedly in his broadcasts.

Rose Sullivan, AFL Organizer, Dies; Devoted Her Whole Life To Labor

Boston, Mass.—Rose Sullivan, one of the ablest and best beloved workers in the American Federation of Labor movement, died here Feb. 27 after a long illness at the age of forty-seven.

Miss Sullivan's whole life was devoted to the cause of the down-trodden and underprivileged. Possessed of boundless energy, a persuasive personality and unusual ability, she was regarded for many years as the topranch woman organizer on the AFL staff.

On the picket line, Miss Sullivan was an inspiration for disheartened strikers. Her own spirit never flagged and she instilled new hope and courage into those who wavered. She was a fighter in the highest sense of the word because she would never give up until victory was won.

Because of her modesty, Miss Sullivan's attainments were scarcely known to those outside the labor movement. But those who worked with her knew her qualities and appreciated them. Not once, but many times, she would give more than her own check to aid the families of oppressed workers. During a cold New England winter she would have to buy several coats because there were times when she felt she had to take hers off and give it to a poor woman who needed it more.

Miss Sullivan loved the labor movement and believed in it with her whole soul. Her sincerity spoke in her voice and glowed in her eyes. It convinced thousands of workers that they needed a union and it overcame the objections of hundreds of employers who didn't believe in dealing with unions.

For more than twenty years Miss Sullivan served as chief organizer for the telephone division of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Since 1934 she was on the organizing staff of the AFL. She traveled through Europe several times studying the labor movements of foreign countries and gathering material for labor articles published in women's magazines.

News of her death came as a severe blow to Frank Fenton, AFL National Organization Director.

"I loved her like a sister," he said. President William Green was also deeply affected by Miss Sullivan's passing. He said:

"She was a great woman. Her remarkable talents and her love of humanity were joined in perfect tommunion in the performance of her duties. The men and women of labor have lost a true friend."

New AFL Plan For War Jobless O.K.'d By Administration Leaders

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor received direct assurances from Administration and Congressional leaders that a way will be worked out promptly to provide extra compensation for workers displaced from their jobs by priorities or by cutbacks in civilian lines of production.

The plan tentatively agreed upon calls for a direct appropriation of $150,000,000 to $300,000,000 to be expended through the WPA or some other appropriate Federal agency.

The new proposal has been taken up by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor with Speaker Sam Rayburn of the House of Representatives.

It is a substitute for the Administration plan which was voted down by the House Ways and Means Committee after many State officials had protested that it would force into bankruptcy by the war production program were first proposed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor last January. The Executive Council urged that such workers be paid a maximum of $28 a week until they could be put back to work again.

Shortly thereafter President Roosevelt sent a message to Congress asking for a $300,000,000 appropriation so that those disrupted by the war could be paid a maximum of $24 a week for a limited period of 26 weeks. The resulting bill, however, was voted down in the House Ways and Means Committee.

President Green immediately protested to the White House and to Congressional leaders that "the Government cannot ignore this situation." He pointed out that the workers affected had been literally forced into unemployment by the Government and added:

"The obligation to care for these workers rests squarely upon the Government."

Following these protests, Mr. Green received definite assurances that the objectives sought "will be worked out in another way."

TEAMSTERS LOCAL WINS SUPREME COURT RULING

Washington, D. C.—In a 6-to-1 decision the Supreme Court upset the conviction of New York City Local 807 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers and twenty-six of its members on charges of violating the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act. The court held the union was exempt from the operation of the law because it was trying to get more work for members.

GREEN TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF GREATER NEW YORK FUND

New York City.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will speak at the annual labor dinner for the Greater New York Fund at the Hotel Commodore on March 12, James A. Farley, honorary chairman of the fund, announced.

Seven hundred local unions will be represented in the union drive to raise funds for the Red Cross and other worthwhile welfare activities.